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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09 749,637	12 28 2000	Baldomero M. Olivera	2314-227	4916

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ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, P.C.
1425 K STREET, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

BUGAISKY, GABRIELE E

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1653

DATE MAILED: 07 02 2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/749,637	OLIVERA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Gabriele E. BUGAISKY	1653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1-38 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-12, 15-35 and 37-38, drawn to conotoxin propeptides and peptides, and their use in pharmaceutical methods, classified in class 514, subclass 514.
- II. Claims 13-14 drawn to nucleic acids encoding conotoxins, classified in class 536, subclass 23.5.
- III. Claim 36, drawn to methods of identifying mimetics of the peptides of Group I, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different functions. The primary structure of a peptide is entirely different than that of a nucleic acid. Although there a polynucleotide can encode a protein, the protein can be obtained without use of a purified polynucleotide-it can be purified from natural sources or made by chemical synthesis, such as in the Merrifield procedure.

Inventions I and III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the peptide can be used, as claimed in a pharmaceutical method to alleviate treat convulsions.

Inventions II and III are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions have different modes of operation. A purified nucleic acid has no role in processes using proteins.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Should either Groups I or III be elected, further restriction is necessary:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct compounds, (which have different primary structures) of the claimed invention: specific peptides of SEQ ID NO:4-5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 22, 24, 37, 40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 57, 60, 63, 66, 69, 72, 75, 78, 81, 84, 87, 90, 93, 96, 99, 99, 102, 105, 108, 111, 114, 117, 120, 123, 126, 129, 132, 135, 138, 141, 144, 147, 150, 154-156, 159, 162, 165, 168, 171, 174, 177, 180, 184, 187, 190, 193, 196, 199, 202, 205, 208, 211, 214, 217, 220, 223, 226, 229, 232, 235, 238, 241, 244, 247, 250, 253, 256, 259, 262,

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265, 268, 271, 274 277, 280, 328, 307, 310, 304, 322, 340, 343, 283, 337, 319, 292, 331, 325,

295, 334, 289, 298, 301, 313, 316, 286, 346, 349, 352, 355, 364, 361, 370, 373, 367, 376, 379,

382, 285, 388, 391, 394, 397, 358, 400, 403, 406, 409. Applicant is required under 35

U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed compound for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner will examine an identified protoxin along with the mature form. Currently, no claims are generic.

Also, should Group II be elected, further restriction is required:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct compounds, (which have different primary structures) of the claimed invention: specific nucleotide sequences encoding SEQ ID NO: 4-5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 22, 24, 37, 40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 57, 60, 63, 66, 69, 72, 75, 78, 81, 84, 87, 90, 93, 96, 99, 99, 102, 105, 108, 111, 114, 117, 120, 123, 126, 129, 132, 135, 138, 141, 144, 147, 150, 154-156, 159, 162, 165, 168, 171, 174, 177, 180, 184, 187, 190, 193, 196, 199, 202, 205, 208, 211, 214, 217, 220, 223, 226, 229, 232, 235, 238, 241, 244, 247, 250, 253, 256, 259, 262, 265, 268, 271, 274 277, 280, 328, 307, 310, 304, 322, 340, 343, 283, 337, 319, 292, 331, 325, 295, 334, 289, 298, 301, 313, 316, 286, 346, 349, 352, 355, 364, 361, 370, 373, 367, 376, 379, 382, 285, 388, 391, 394, 397, 358, 400, 403, 406, 409..

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed compound for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the peptide or nucleic acid that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election

This election requirement is not be construed as a species election, as these compounds do not share a common primary structure and appear to be patentably distinct.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that these different compounds are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

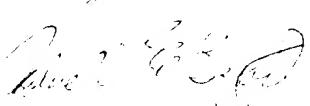
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Gabriele E. Bugaisky, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-4201. The Examiner can normally be reached from 8:15 AM to 12:15 PM on Mondays and from 8:15 AM to 1:15 PM on other weekdays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Christopher S. F. Low, can be reached at (703) 308-2923.

Papers related to this application may be submitted by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The Fax Center number is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


Gabriele E. Bugaisky
Primary Patent Examiner

6/29/2002

GABRIELE BUGAISKY
PATENT EXAMINER